

WHAT IS CLAIMED AS NEW AND IS INTENDED TO BE SECURED BY LETTERS  
PATENT IS:

1. A process for the preparation of orthocarbonates, comprising:  
reacting trichloroacetonitrile with an alkali metal salt or alkaline earth metal salt of an alcohol of the formula:



wherein R is an unsubstituted or substituted, saturated aliphatic or cycloaliphatic hydrocarbon radical in which the carbon atom of group R, linked to the oxygen atom of the alcohol, has at least one hydrogen atom, in a polar solvent;

reacting the product obtained in water with an oxidant;  
extracting the organic-aqueous phase of the material obtained after oxidation; and  
distilling the extracted material obtained and obtaining orthocarbonate product of the formula:



wherein each R group is as defined above.

2. The process as claimed in Claim 1, wherein all or some of the solvent present during the reaction is removed by distillation after the reaction.
3. The process as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the oxidant is chlorine, chlorine water, a polysulfide, thiosulfate, polythionate, hydrogen peroxide, hypochlorite or hypobromite solution.
4. The process as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the extraction is conducted with an organic solvent selected from the group consisting of aliphatic, cycloaliphatic, aromatic or

chlorinated hydrocarbons, ketones and esters.

5. The process as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the extractant is pentane or hexane.
6. The process as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the extractant is cyclohexane, methylcyclohexane or ethylcyclohexane.
7. The process as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the extractant is toluene, ethylbenzene, xylene, cumene or mesitylene.
8. The process as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the extractant is dichloromethane, 1,1- or 1,2-dichloroethane or trichloromethane.
9. The process as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the extractant is methyl isobutyl ketone, methylcyclohexanone or diisobutyl ketone.
11. The process as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the extractant is ethyl acetate, butyl acetate or ethyl propionate.
12. The process as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the extraction is conducted at a temperature ranging from 0°C to 100°C.
13. The process as claimed in Claim 1, wherein group R is methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, butyl, isobutyl, pentyl, isopentyl, neopentyl, cyclopropyl, cyclobutyl, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, cyclopropylmethyl, cyclopentylmethyl or cyclohexylmethyl.
14. The process as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the polar solvent is tetrahydrofuran, dimethoxyethane, diisopropyl ether, dibutyl ether, diethylene glycol dimethyl ether, dimethyl sulfoxide, sulfolane, 2-methylsulfolane, 3-methylsulfolane, 2-methyl-4-butylsulfolane, acetonitrile, dimethylformamide or N,N-dimethylacetamide.

15. The process as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the reaction temperature ranges from -20°C to 200°C.

16. The process as claimed in Claim 15, wherein the reaction temperature ranges from 50°C to 150°C.

17. The process as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the pressure of the reaction ranges from 0.1 to 50 bar.